

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Alexandra Rodriguez. I am a student at Connecticut River Academy. I'm from Hartford.

I'm from the Dominican Republic. I came to the U.S. when I was 9 years old and I believe that having access to healthcare in the U.S. is really important. It is a way for our families and us to know that we will be okay in case anything happens.

Having healthcare would mean that we wouldn't have to worry about money or that we won't get the right treatment because of cost. In my family it has always been important for us to have healthcare in case of an emergency.

During the pandemic, it was already hard for some families to provide for their kids. Many families and kids went through a hard time during Covid. Not having healthcare made it harder for them. In the U.S., most of our families depend on healthcare for their children. It is almost impossible to receive adequate care without it. One of the reasons being that we aren't able to work until we are 18 years old and pay for healthcare, ourselves. When we are under the age of 18 is when we need healthcare the most.

I don't know if you, personally, are a parent. But I don't believe that you have to be a parent to have empathy for children in the state of CT who are vulnerable without healthcare coverage. We can and must do so much better!

I support SB 284, with clear language to extend current HUSKY eligibility rules to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status, and I ask the committee to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time,
Alexandra Rodriguez